



Craig Latimer Supervisor of Elections

Our Vision: To be the best place in America to vote

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4/30/2021

Statement from Craig Latimer, Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections and President of the Florida Supervisors of Elections

As Supervisors of Elections, we are unwavering in our commitment to keeping our elections both secure and accessible. We did that in 2020, to universal acclaim. Elections ran smoothly, voters participated in record numbers, and election results were verified with audits in every county in Florida, as provided for in our current election law. My colleagues and I will continue to work every day to increase voter participation and maintain the integrity of our elections, following any new requirements established by our lawmakers.

During this legislative session, Supervisors of Elections spent hours talking to legislators about how proposed legislation would impact voters. For example, in 2020 our voters overwhelmingly appreciated the peace of mind that came from dropping their mail ballot off in a secure drop box, because they knew that by using the drop box instead of a mailbox, their ballot would be received on time. We should be looking for cost-effective ways to expand their use, including the use of secure 24-hour drop boxes with camera surveillance. Instead, the new legislation prohibits that.

Fortunately, proposals that would have been the most disenfranchising, such as cancelling Vote By Mail requests that voters currently have on file, were dropped from the final version of the bill. However, this legislation still makes requesting Vote By Mail ballots and returning those ballots harder.

After days of debate, our hope is that the initial and unnecessary call for election reform will not detract from the confidence that was well-earned in 2020. Indeed, after the 2020 General Election, Governor DeSantis said that we had “finally vanquished the ghosts of Bush vs. Gore,” praising our ability to count 11 million votes quickly and holding Florida up as an example for other states to follow. Throughout this legislative process, legislators who supported and opposed the bill commended our performance in 2020, over and over. I look forward to continuing to earn the trust of my community as I work to preserve our most precious right to participate in our democratic government.

VoteHillsborough.gov



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